

Visitation Policy Highlights*

July 21, 2004

Frequent, purposeful visitation is central to promoting safety, permanence, and well being.

Visits with Families Receiving In-Home Services:

- ◆ **Goal of visiting twice per month, but a minimum of once per month**
- ◆ Every visit to include a private visit with the child for whom abuse or neglect is substantiated (except when the child is less than 18 months old)
- ◆ During visits:
 - Assess safety
 - Ensure children's needs are being met
 - Assess progress on the case plan and initiate updates through discussions with parent(s).
- ◆ Document the details of the visit in FACES within 24 hours of the visit

Visits with Children in Out-of-Home Care:

- ◆ **In the first 8 weeks in out-of-home care or a new placement, a minimum of once per week; Thereafter, a minimum of once every 2 weeks**
- ◆ Every visit to include a private visit with the child (except when the child is less than 18 months)
- ◆ Children placed more than 100 miles outside of D.C. shall have a social worker from the receiving state supervise the placement through the ICPC, but the CFSA or contracted agency social worker shall call the social worker from the receiving state monthly, when possible, call the child monthly, when he or she has a relationship with the child, and visit with the child face-to-face at least twice per year
- ◆ During visits:
 - Assess safety
 - Ensure children's needs are being met
 - Assess progress on the case plan and initiate updates
 - Discuss upcoming events and children's concerns
- ◆ Document the details of the visit in FACES within 24 hours of the visit

Visits with Parents of Children in Out-of-Home Care:

- ◆ **When the goal is reunification, visit the parent(s) in the home a minimum of twice per month in the first 3 months post-placement; After the first 3 months, for as long as the goal remains reunification, visit a minimum of once per month**
- ◆ During visits:
 - Ensure progress on the child and family plans
 - Assist in attaining needed resources
 - Affirm progress and discuss issues
 - Discuss any health needs or appointments for the child
- ◆ Document the details of the visit in FACES within 24 hours of the visit

Visits Between Children in Out-of-Home Care and Their Families:

- ◆ **When the goal is reunification, visits shall be a minimum of once per week, unless the child's best interest (documented in the case plan) requires less frequent visitation**
- ◆ **When the goal is not reunification, visits are based on the child's best interest.** If reasons are identified for visits to be limited or denied, present a recommendation to the Court for a determination
- ◆ **Visits between siblings shall be a minimum of twice per month**
- ◆ Visits shall be in the parent's home, unless there are reasons against it documented in the record. In all cases, visits shall be in the most family-like setting possible
- ◆ CFSA may request that the Court deny or limit visitation with individuals if in the child's best interest
- ◆ Document the details of the visit in FACES within 24 hours of the visit

* This sheet is only meant to serve as a quick-reference guide. See the Visitation Policy for detailed requirements.